

REMARKS

Claims 7-14 are pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 7-11, 13, and 14 will be pending, claim 7 having been amended and claim 12 canceled. There are no issues of new matter.

Claim 12 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 7, from which claim 12 depends, has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable. Claim 12 is canceled.

Claims 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (US 6,436,127) in view of Doiron (US 5,698,866). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Doiron further in view of Tankovich (US 5,817,089). Claim 7 has been amended as described above, rendering the rejections moot.


In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in

connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 595982000211.

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Respectfully submitted,

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